

CHAPTER IX.—FORESTRY*

CONSPECTUS

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The forests of Canada cover a vast region in the north temperate climatic zone, reaching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific; they extend northward from the International Boundary to beyond the Arctic Circle. Wide variations in climatic, physiographic and soil conditions cause marked differences in the character of the forests in different parts of the country, hence more or less well-defined forest regions may be recognized. The principal regions are: Acadian, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence, Deciduous, Boreal, Sub-Alpine, Columbia, Montane and Coast.

Section 1.—Forest Regions

At pp. 184-188 of the 1941 edition of the Year Book the forest regions of Canada are separately described, together with the dominant and associated tree species common to each.

Section 2.—Important Tree Species

In Canada there are over 130 distinct species of trees. Only 33 of these are conifers or softwoods, but they comprise three-quarters of the standing timber and supply nearly 80 p.c. of the wood used for all purposes. Of the deciduous-leaved or hardwood species, only about a dozen are of commercial importance as compared with twice that number of conifers.

A short description of the individual tree species is given at pp. 247-249 of the Canada Year Book, 1940. More detailed information on this subject is given at pp. 283-286 of the 1936 edition of the Year Book and in the Dominion Forest Service Bulletin No. 61, "Native Trees of Canada", published by the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

Section 3.—Forest Resources

The forested area of Canada is 1,220,405 sq. miles, constituting 35 p.c. of the total land area. In comparison, only 16 p.c. of the land area is considered to be of present or potential value for agriculture, and only 7 p.c. is now classed as "improved and pasture". The forested area within the boundaries of the nine provinces totals 1,160,405 sq. miles, or 58 p.c. of the provincial land area. About 450,000 sq. miles of the existing forests are classed as "unproductive". They are made up of small trees which cannot be expected to reach merchantable size because they are growing

* Material in this chapter has been revised by R. G. Lewis, B.Sc. F., Chief of the Forestry Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in co-operation with the Dominion Forest Service of the Department of Mines and Resources. Section 7.—The Influence of the War on the Pulp and Paper Industry—has been prepared by the Economic Branch, Research Division, Wartime Prices and Trade Board. The Forestry Branch of the Bureau of Statistics collects and compiles statistics relating to forest production. For detailed list of publications of the Forestry Branch, see Chapter XXX.